

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A game machine comprising:
 - 2 a plurality of display regions;
 - 3 a display module for displaying a plurality of symbols in each display region;
 - 4 an evaluation module for evaluating whether a predetermined condition is met
 - 5 in a game; and
 - 6 a display control module for changing a number of symbols being displayed in
 - 7 at least one of said display regions if the predetermined condition is met.
- 1 2. A game machine according to claim 1 further comprising:
 - 2 a selection module to determine a symbol to be displayed in said display
 - 3 regions out of said plurality of symbols, when a selection is made;
 - 4 wherein as a result of said selection, said display control module changes a
 - 5 number of symbols displayed in at least one of said display regions in response to said
 - 6 predetermined condition being met, said predetermined condition is met when a
 - 7 predetermined special symbol is displayed in one of said display regions.
- 1 3. A game machine according to claim 2 wherein said display control module
- 2 changes a number of symbols displayed in one, some, or all of said display regions.
- 1 4. A game machine according to claim 3 further comprising:
 - 2 a selection module for determining, based on a player's selection, a display
 - 3 region needed to change the number of symbols displayed.
- 1 5. A game machine according to claim 1 wherein said display control module
- 2 expands or reduces an area of said display regions of said display module to change a
- 3 number of symbols being displayed.
- 1 6. A game machine according to claim 1 further comprising:
 - 2 a cover for covering said display regions; and
 - 3 a device for opening and closing said cover;
 - 4 wherein a number of symbols displayed in said display regions is changed by
 - 5 opening and closing said cover using said device.
- 1 7. A game machine according to claim 1 wherein:
 - 2 said game includes a normal game and a special game; and
 - 3 said display control module changes a number of symbols displayed in said
 - 4 display regions during said special game.

1 8. A game machine according to claim 7 wherein said special game is a free
2 game activated without a player having to perform a new operation to increase a bet
3 count.

1 9. A game machine according to claim 1 wherein said display control module
2 increases a number of symbols that can be displayed in said display regions to change
3 said number of symbols.

1 10. A gaming method comprising:
2 displaying a plurality of symbols in a plurality of display regions;
3 evaluating whether a predetermined condition is met in a game; and
4 changing a number of symbols being displayed in at least one of said display
5 regions if the predetermined condition is met.

1 11. A gaming method according to claim 10 further comprising:
2 determining a symbol to be displayed in said display regions out of said
3 plurality of symbols, when a selection is made,
4 wherein as a result of said selection, a number of symbols displayed in at least
5 one of said display regions is changed in response to said predetermined condition being
6 met, said predetermined condition is met when a predetermined special symbol is
7 displayed in one of said display regions.

1 12. A gaming method according to claim 11 wherein the number of symbols
2 displayed is changed in one, some, or all of said display regions.

1 13. A gaming method according to claim 12 further comprising:
2 determining a display region needed to change the number of symbols
3 displayed based on a player's selection.

1 14. A gaming method according to claim 10 wherein an area of said display
2 regions of said display module expands or reduces to change a number of symbols being
3 displayed.

1 15. A gaming method according to claim 10 wherein the number of symbols
2 displayed in said display regions is changed by opening and closing a cover using said a
3 device for opening and closing said cover.

1 16. A gaming method according to claim 10 wherein said game includes a

2 normal game and a special game; and said display control module changes a number of
3 symbols displayed in said display regions during said special game.

1 17. A gaming method according to claim 16 wherein said special game is a free
2 game activated without a player having to perform a new operation to increase a bet
3 count.

1 18. A gaming method according to claim 10 wherein the number of symbols that
2 can be displayed in said display regions is increased to change said number of symbols.